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CLAIMS:-

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1. [Amended] A method of monitoring a consignment of goods including the following
5 steps:
- measuring a predetermined parameter or parameters of said consignment using a
disposable sender device attachable to said consignment;
- transmitting a signal containing data representative of said measured parameter to
a central location;
- 10 maintaining a database relating to said consignment at said central location, said
database including said data representative of said measured parameters;
- initiating said database to include consignment data for each
consignment; and
- providing secure communication access to said database to enable
15 monitoring by enabled users of data available from said database.
2. A method of monitoring according to claim 1 wherein said parameter or
parameters are measured continuously or at predetermined intervals and said data
includes time indicative data associated with said measurements.
3. A method of monitoring according to claim 2 wherein the parameter is the
20 temperature of the consignment.
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4. A method of monitoring according to claim 1 or claim 2 including the step of
communicating the data to an intermediate sender device provided at the location of the

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consignment and transmitting the data from the intermediate sender device to said central location.

5. A method of monitoring according to claim 4 including the step of determining the location of the consignment and including data representative of the determined location in said data transmitted to said central location.

6. A method of monitoring according to any one of the preceding claims including the step of storing said data in a storage means before transmission to said central location.

7. A method of monitoring according to claim 6 when appended to claims 4 or 5 wherein said storage means is provided in said intermediate sender device.

8. A method of monitoring according to anyone of the preceding claims wherein said database includes set point values associated with said consignment for one or more of said measured parameters and the method includes comparing measured values with corresponding set point values to determine whether the consignment is meeting predetermined conditions.

9. [amended] A method of monitoring according to any one of the preceding claims wherein said consignment data for each consignment includes dispatch and product data.

10. cancelled

11. [amended] A method of monitoring according to any one of the preceding claims wherein said secure communication access is provided via the Internet.

12. [amended] A system for monitoring a consignment of goods including:

a sender device attachable to said consignment including a measurement means for measuring a predetermined parameter or parameters of said consignment;

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first communication means for transmitting a signal containing data
representative of said measured parameter to a central location;

computer system means for maintaining a database relating to said consignment
at said central location, said database including said data representative of said measured
5 parameters and wherein said database is initiated to include consignment data for each
consignment, and

a secure communication access means for providing access to said database to
enable monitoring by enabled users of data available from said database.

13. A system for monitoring according to claim 12 wherein said parameter or
10 parameters are measured continuously or at predetermined intervals and said data
includes time indicative data associated with said measurements.

14. A system for monitoring according to claim 13 wherein the parameter is the
temperature of the consignment.

15. A system for monitoring according to claim 12, claim 13 or claim 14 wherein
15 said first communication means is included in said sender device for communicating the
data to an intermediate sender device provided at the location of the consignment and a
second communication means being included in said intermediate sender device for
transmitting the data from the intermediate sender device to said central location.

16. A system for monitoring according to claim 15 including location determining
20 means for determining the location of the consignment and means for including data
representative of the determined location in said data transmitted to said central location.

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17. A system for monitoring according to claim 16 wherein said location determining means includes a global positioning system.

18. A system for monitoring according to claim 16 or 17 wherein said location determining means is included in said intermediate sender device.

5 19. A system for monitoring according to any one of claims 12 to 18 including a storage means for storing said data before transmission to said central location.

20. A system for monitoring according to claim 19 when appended to any one of claims 15 to 18 wherein said storage means is provided in said intermediate sender device.

10 21. A system for monitoring according to any one of claims 12 to 20 wherein the sender device is disposable and battery powered.

22. A system for monitoring according to any one of claims 12 to 20 wherein the sender device is disposable and inductively powered from said intermediate sender device.

15 23. A system for monitoring according to anyone of claims 12 to 22 wherein said database includes set point values associated with said consignment for one or more of said measured parameters and said computer system means includes comparison means — for comparing measured values with corresponding set point values to determine whether the consignment is meeting predetermined conditions.

20 24. [amended] A system for monitoring according to any one of claims 12 to 23 wherein said consignment data for each consignment includes dispatch and product data.

25. cancelled.

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26. [amended] A system for monitoring according to any one of claims 12 to 24 wherein
said secure communication access means provides said access via the Internet.

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